

committee itself by unanimous consent, so it is a very uncontroversial piece.

This area of northwest Alabama is adjacent to the State of Tennessee and the State of Mississippi as well, so my colleagues in the House, the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) and the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ADERHOLT), both are cosponsors of this piece of legislation.

As the chairman referred to and the ranking member referred to in their remarks about H.R. 2628, this area of northwest Alabama has an extraordinary history of involvement. Native Americans were active in this particular area, and we have an Indian Mound Museum there that is one of the most extraordinary museums in the country.

As we move on through history, the Tennessee River has defined our area culturally as well as in terms of transportation issues as well. In the early 1920s, the Wilson Locks and Dam was built there even before TVA came into existence. At the time it was the largest lock and dam on the Tennessee River and one of the largest dams in the country as well.

President Roosevelt visited that area and was so impressed by the potential that he saw there that he was inspired to form the Tennessee Valley Authority, which has given us a significant part of our prosperity there, not only in the State of Alabama but in Tennessee and the entire region as well.

But as the chairman referred to, we are the home of the W. C. Handy Festival. That is a blues festival. W. C. Handy, unbeknownst to a lot of people in the country, is the "Father of the blues." He was born in Florence, Alabama, which is located in northwest Alabama. This festival has existed for 20 years and has brought thousands of music specialists from all over the country.

We have a verbal history that is available in our area of the music tradition that is there. Now, the Muscle Shoals Studio was a recent era of music that really was born out of the blues era. It is a sound recording studio that has been used by many musicians around the world. All of that kind of heritage was started back in the early 1920s and built on from there as well. So this feasibility study would give us the chance to catalogue a lot of that information.

Helen Keller was born in Tusculum, Alabama. That is within 5 miles of this Tennessee River, and within 10 miles of Florence, Alabama as well. Her home, Ivy Green, was preserved as a museum. There is a Helen Keller Festival there as well. A lot of Helen Keller relatives come back to that area to this particular festival.

Jesse Owens was born in Lawrence County, again, another 7 miles from the very center of the area we are talking about. There is a museum to celebrate his contributions to American history there as well.

The Frank Lloyd Wright structures we have in this area all combine to give our area of Alabama a unique history which we think is deserving of this declaration as a National Heritage Area study place.

I want to thank again the committee for giving us this opportunity, and I urge my colleagues to pass this important bill, H.R. 2628.

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2628.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the five bills just considered, H.R. 3421, H.R. 3909, H. Res. 261, H.R. 2109, and H.R. 2628.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Utah?

There was no objection.

STRENGTHENING SCIENCE AT THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY ACT

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 64) to provide for the establishment of the position of Deputy Administrator for Science and Technology of the Environmental Protection Agency, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 64

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Strengthening Science at the Environmental Protection Agency Act".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

For purposes of this Act—

(1) the term "Administrator" means the Administrator of the Agency;

(2) the term "Agency" means the Environmental Protection Agency;

(3) the term "Deputy" means the Deputy Administrator for Science and Technology appointed under section 4; and

(4) the term "research" means research, development, and demonstration.

SEC. 3. RESEARCH MISSION OF AGENCY.

Conducting, sponsoring, and evaluating environmental science and technology research shall be a central mission of the Agency. The results of such research shall be used to help initiate, formulate, and carry out the Agen-

cy's agenda, and the Agency shall seek to increase the public's understanding of environmental science and technology by making those research results available to the public.

SEC. 4. DEPUTY.

(a) APPOINTMENT.—The President shall appoint, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, a Deputy Administrator for Science and Technology, who shall coordinate and oversee the science and technology activities of the Agency and ensure that Agency decisions are informed by the results of appropriate and relevant research.

(b) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Deputy shall—

(1) provide advice to the Administrator regarding science and technology issues and their relationship to Agency policies, procedures, and decisions;

(2) participate in developing the Agency's strategic plans and policies and review the science and technology aspects of those plans and policies;

(3) coordinate the acquisition and compilation of relevant science and technology information available from academic sources, government agencies, and the private sector;

(4) develop and oversee guidelines for the dissemination of research results conducted, sponsored, or cited by the Agency to the public, including historically black colleges and universities, Hispanic-serving institutions, minority communities, and rural communities; and

(5) develop and oversee guidelines for peer review of science and technology research.

(c) QUALIFICATIONS.—An individual appointed under subsection (a) shall be a person who has an outstanding science and technology background, including research accomplishments, scientific reputation, and public policy experience.

(d) CONSULTATION.—Before appointing an individual under subsection (a), the President shall consult with the National Academy of Sciences, the National Academy of Engineering, the Science Advisory Board of the Agency, and other appropriate scientific organizations.

(e) COMPENSATION.—The Deputy shall be compensated at the rate provided for level III of the Executive Schedule pursuant to section 5314 of title 5, United States Code.

(f) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 5314 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"Deputy Administrator for Science and Technology of the Environmental Protection Agency."

SEC. 5. ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.

(a) TITLE AND TERM.—There shall be an Assistant Administrator for Research and Development of the Agency, who shall also have the title of Chief Scientist of the Agency. Appointments to such position made after the date of the enactment of this Act shall be for a term of 5 years unless sooner removed by the President.

(b) QUALIFICATIONS.—An individual appointed under subsection (a) shall be a person who has an outstanding science and technology background, including research accomplishments, scientific reputation, and experience in leading a research and development organization.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS) and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. BAIRD) will each control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members